INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT — PART IV

Intertel Tracks Down Meier In Vancouver

(Editor's Note: John Meier goes to Canada to find some peace from the Howard Hughes-CIA forces but there finds himself under the eye of Intertel, the Hughes quasi-police force, in Part Four of The Invisible Government.)

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When the Meier family left the U.S. in the summer of '72 they went north into Canada to find some peace and quiet.

At that time there were no criminal or civil charges against Howard Hughes' former aide John Meier. While Meier said he knew he wasn't popular with the Nixon White House, his former boss, the billionaire, or the CIA, which had handed him extremely sensitive political documents by mistake, he didn't quite know what form their combined displeasure would take.

He wouldn't have to wait long to find out.

Unknown to him, Intertel — Hughes' investigative agency — and the CIA wre conducting a Canada-wide search for Meier and his family.

They found the former aide living quietly in the Vancouver suburb of Delta. He was discovered by a Vancouver man, Bob Morrison, who said he was hired by Intertel.

Morrison apparently has a number of jobs, one of which was a part-time driving instructor in Delta. One night while searching through the driving school files he found the name of Meier's son, who is also called John, on the list of people getting instruction.

Within a matter of days Intertel had nine agents constantly watching Meier. Because of the location with only one road leading in and out of where Meier was living, Morrison says it was simple to keep watch on Meier's every step.

Another of Morrison's sidelines was to inform on whom he considered "undesirables" to Canadian immigration officials.

Meier at this time was seeking landed immigrant status in Canada so he could legally work in the country.

For some reason the immigration service was constantly delaying his case. Morrison later admitted that this was his doing.

Morrison said Intertel was keen on having Meier's application denied by Canadian authorities so that Meier would not have any protection against court action originating in the U.S.

He said he informed his contacts in immigration that charges were pending against Meier and that the former aide was "in trouble."

On Feb. 6, 1973, came a set-up involving the Meier family which eventually brought the name of John Meier before the Canadian parliament in Ottawa.

Meier said that he was called by the immigration official handling his case and asked to come and meet him in Vancouver later that day.

With his wife and family he went down to the immigration offices. They had hardly left their car when they were pounced on by nine Intertel agents and served with documents outlining the Hughes organization's civil action

(See INTERTEL, Page 4)

Hughes Forces Track Down John Meier In Vancouver

(Continued From Page 1)

against Meier. It was claimed he made $9 million more than he should have done while with the company.

At various times the Hughes company has put contradictory values on the money Meier is supposed to have taken from Hughes.

Meier says that the company alleged he'd taken as much as $19 million at one point and listed a veritable litany of people he'd acted with in taking the money.

Then the figure was dropped to the better known $9 million sum and along with it disappeared some of the defendants, said Meier.

The civil case being heard in Salt Lake City, Utah, had Meier as one of the defendants among Anthony Hatsis, Toledo Mining, Glove Inc., John Suckling, Charles W. Adams, E. B. Van Walsum, Malaga Investments Ltd., Inrespro Ltd. and Intermovie.

One by one the defendants dropped off as the company kept changing its charges. Not so Meier. They stuck to him like glue.

In fact one of the charges — that of conspiracy — was still on the books against Meier until his lawyer pointed out that as Meier was now the solitary surviving defendant it would be physically impossible for him to conspire with himself — like the tango it takes two.

Now the company's charges against him have brought the figure down below the $1 million mark, said Meier.

"They won't say how much it is I'm supposed to have taken. It seems every time they go to court they change their minds," he said.

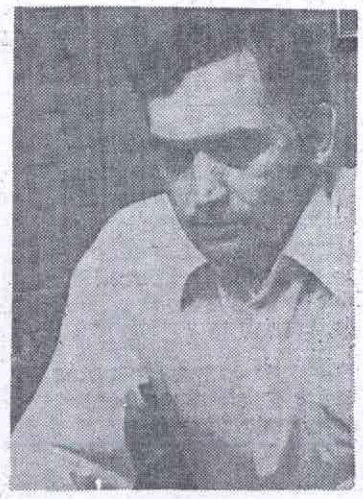
As to the ambush by Intertel agents outside the Vancouver immigration offices, Morrison the Intertel-immigration informer denies it was a setup.

Morrison said the family was just followed to Vancouver and served the papers without any collusion between government and Intertel agents.

Meier, on the other hand, argues the immigration official who called him downtown did so deliberately so Intertel could serve the summons.

Virgino Gonzales in his affidavit supports Meier's version. The former CIA agent who tailed Meier around during this period said the agency had a low level contact in Vancouver immigration and used him to engineer a frame which would embarrass Meier with other immigration officials.

The next occasion which showed a surreptitious liaison existed between members of the immigration branch and Intertel came when Meier's confidential file disappeared from immigration department offices and ended up in the hands of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service which had also joined the hunt.



SURPRISE — Canadian Member of Parliament John Reynolds reads an affidavit by ex-CIA agent Virgino Gonzales which details CIA activities in Canada directed against former Howard Hughes aide John Meier. Reynolds brought the matter before Parliament and Meier received an official apology.

Strongly implicated in this set-up was once again the ubiquitous Morrison.

The story goes like this: someone in Vancouver immigration decided he would like Meier's confidential file which was being kept at a border crossing 30 miles from the city.

It was the weekend and someone — not a regular immigration employe — was asked to pick it up and bring the file downtown.

Somewhere along the line the file ended up in the hands of the U.S. authorities where it was copied over the weekend before being taken to Vancouver.

Months later, when Canadian member of Parliament John Reynolds brought the matter to the attention of the Canadian government, Meier received an official apology from the immigration minister. But his application for immigration status was still stymied. The Canadaians were apologetic but unhelpful.

While the previous events had caused consternation in ths Meier household it was the third "set-up" which gave them all an insight into the power of the forces now arrayed against Hughes' one-time aide.

For this was a no-holds barred affair with guns and manacles, judges, grand jury hearings, and a snatch that had all the earmarks of a well executed military operation.

(Tomorrow: A short trip into American territory leads to a nightmare for an unsuspecting John Meier who seemed to be trapped in a coordinated effort to get him which stretched from Las Vegas to Canada, in Part Five of The Invisible Government.)